

# NEWS FROM SCDCA

## South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, Administrator

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### DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS PARTICIPATING IN NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK FEBRUARY 6 - 12

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs has joined a group of federal agencies and national advocacy organizations to launch the annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), February 6-12, 2005, highlighting consumer protection and education efforts around the country. This year's theme, "Identity Theft: When Fact Becomes Fiction," focuses on minimizing the risk of identity theft and taking fast action to contain any harm, if an identity thief strikes.

"Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing types of fraud out there," said SCDCA Administrator Brandolyn Pinkston. "It's imperative that South Carolina citizens know how to protect themselves and their personal information."

To highlight National Consumer Protection week in South Carolina, the department will distribute "Consumer Survival Kits" containing information on identity theft and various other consumer issues. A partnership with public libraries across the state will feature displays and brochures on identity theft to help educate the public about this problem.

To request a "Consumer Survival Kit" or schedule a speaker for your organization, please contact Sherry G. King, Director of Educational Services, at (803) 734.4195 or [king@dca.state.sc.us](mailto:king@dca.state.sc.us).

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#### About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers. Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education. For more information, visit [www.state.sc.us/consumer](http://www.state.sc.us/consumer).

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